

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 24, 26, and 43 have been amended. Claims 22 and 23 have been cancelled. Claims 24-26 and 43 are pending and under consideration.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 22 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Because claims 22 and 23 have been cancelled, these rejections have been resolved.

On pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner designates claim 43 as allowable. Because claim 43 has been amended only to correct matters of form, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 43 is allowable.

On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner objects to claims 24-26 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but that claims 24-26 would be allowable "if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims."

Applicants also note that in paragraphs 2 and 3 of page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that claim 24 would be allowable if amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 22 and 23. Claim 24 has therefore been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 22 and 23. Other changes to claim 24 have additionally been made, but only to correct matters of form. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the objection to claim 24 has been overcome, and claim 24 is allowable.

This amendment simply cancels claims and complies with an express requirement of the Examiner. Therefore, this amendment is fully appropriate for entry at this after final stage of prosecution. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(b)(1).

Based on the Examiner's indications of allowability for the pending claims, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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